

Patent
 Attorney Docket 4353

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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)
 Application No.: PCT/JP00/03048)
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 Filed: May 26, 1999)
)
 For: METHOD OF PRODUCING)
 TOWN GAS)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend the specification and claims as indicated hereinafter.

In the specification:

Delete the paragraphs beginning at line 7 on page 1 and ending on line 29 of page 5 and substitute therefore the following amended paragraphs:

-- Background Art

Recently, in the major cities, town gas is obtained by evaporating liquefied natural gas (LNG). However, to produce town gas from LNG requires the facilities for maintaining the received LNG at an extremely low temperature under -162°C and for evaporating the LNG to